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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3446
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0085
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0004
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0004
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0003
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0006
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0002
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0039
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0040
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0012
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0013
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0347
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0126
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0032
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0010
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0005
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0010
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0018
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0028
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0004
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0012
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0006
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0057
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0304
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0009
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0011
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0008
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0155
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0015

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 000277

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DEPT FOR G (FERRAO), DRL/MLGA (PAZ)
DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/NB (WHEELER)
ADDIS ABABA for USAU
PARIS for USOECD Paul Reid, Curtis Stone
BRUSSELS for USEU Patricia Lerner
USOAS for Bob Manzanares

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: Iceland: Press in New York for a position on Partnership
for Democratic Governance

Refs: A) State 108794

B) State 131040

1. (SBU) Summary: Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs remains noncommittal on Iceland's involvement in the OECD Partnership for Democratic Governance (PDG), despite repeated overtures from Post. Embassy believes this may be a result of uncertainty about the form and objectives of the PDG as well as the fact that Iceland's development aid policy is apparently under review by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Post suggests engagement on the margins of UNGA to clarify details of the PDG and press for Icelandic support. End Summary.

2. (SBU) DCM, Econ Chief, and visiting EUR/NB Desk Officer presented Ref A points to the Director-General for External Trade and Economic Affairs at Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs on August 21. Earlier in the day, Pol Chief, EUR/NB DeskOff and Pol Intern made a similar presentation to the MFA's Counsellor for Human Rights and Democracy Issues. Both were appreciative but noncommittal, saying they would raise the issue within the ministry.

In follow-up contacts on September 14 and again on September 20 to present Ref B information, MFA contacts were similarly undecided about Iceland's participation. Icelandic MFA's Minister-Counsellor for International Organization Affairs Nikulas Hannigan told Pol Chief on September 20 that the issue was "under review" at the ministry, but added on a separate topic that development aid was one of Iceland's main issues of interest for the upcoming UN General Assembly (UNGA).

¶3. (SBU) Comment: EmbOffs have learned separately that Minister for Foreign Affairs Gisladdottir has asked for a review of Iceland's development aid policy, including an exploration of merging the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) into the Ministry. Currently, ICEIDA handles bilateral aid projects while the MFA has responsibility for multilateral donations. We speculate that this review may be stalling commitments to other initiatives.

¶4. (SBU) Comment, cont'd: Post recommends engagement with the Icelandic missions at the UN and OECD to clarify thinking on the PDG as well as direct engagement with the Icelandic delegation at UNGA to help flush out MFA thinking on the issue.

Klopfenstein